

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**

On page 1, above line 1, insert: --Priority Claim and Cross Reference

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. 371 national stage filing of PCT/EP2004/012257 filed 29 October 2004, which claims benefit of European patent application No. 03104040.5 filed 31 October 2003. --

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention --

On page 1, please amend the paragraph starting on line 1 as follows: --

The present invention relates to [[a]] systems for removal of a toxic gas from a powder contaminated with the toxic gas, and to [[a]] methods of de-toxicating a powder contaminated with a toxic gas. --

On page 1, please amend the paragraph starting on line 5 as follows: --

Such [[a]] systems and methods may be used in a dry solids removal system of a coal gasification plant. --

On page 1, above line 7, insert--Background of the Invention --

On page 2, above line 31, insert--Summary of the Invention--

Paragraph on line 31, of page 2, and ending on line 11 of page 3, has been amended as follows:

-- ~~According to the~~ The invention ~~there is provided~~ provides a system for removal of a toxic gas from a powder contaminated with the toxic gas, which system comprises:

- a source of the contaminated powder;
  - a stripper assembly for stripping at least part of the toxic gas from a batch load of the contaminated powder;
  - connecting means for fluidly connecting the source with the stripper assembly for transporting the contaminated powder from the source to the stripper assembly;
- wherein the stripper assembly comprises two or more stripper vessels, and the connecting means is arranged to selectively connect the source to one or more of the stripper vessels.--

On page 3, above line 17, please insert the following paragraph:

--In accordance with the invention there is also provided a method of de-toxicating a powder contaminated with a toxic gas, wherein de-toxicating comprises at least partially removing the toxic gas from the contaminated powder, and the method comprises the steps of:

- providing a stripper assembly;
  - transporting the contaminated powder from the source to the stripper assembly;
  - stripping at least part of the toxic gas from a batch load of the contaminated powder in the stripper assembly;
- wherein the provided stripper assembly comprises two or more stripper vessels and wherein transporting the contaminated powder from the source to the stripper assembly includes:
- selecting one or more of the stripper vessels; and
  - transporting the contaminated powder to the selected one or more stripper vessels.

Simultaneously to these steps, an earlier batch load of the contaminated powder can be in the course of being stripped from the toxic gas in an unselected stripper vessel.--

On page 3, delete lines 17-35.

On page 4, delete lines 1-25.

On page 4, above line 26, insert the following paragraph:

--The source may be provided with collecting means for collecting an amount of contaminated powder prior to discharging the collected contaminated powder to the stripper assembly.--

On page 5, delete lines 17-34.

On page 6, delete lines 1-4.

On page 6, above line 5, insert--Brief Description of Drawings--

On page 6, above line 13, insert--Detailed Description of the Invention--

On page 14, above line 23, insert the following paragraphs:

--Thus, the system according to the invention is also advantageous if the source is provided with collecting means for collecting an amount of contaminated powder prior to discharging the collected contaminated powder to the stripper assembly via the connecting means, because in that case the required accumulating capacity for the intermediate collecting vessel is reduced in comparison with a system comprising only one stripper vessel.

This is clarified in the following way. In operation, the first batch load can be stripped in a first one of the stripper vessels while at the same time:

- a second batch load is being collected in the collecting vessel and transported to another stripper vessel in the stripper assembly; and subsequently
- a third batch load is being collected in the collecting vessel for later transportation to said first one of the stripper vessels.

When, for example, two stripper vessels are in use, the available dwell time, or residence time, of a batch load in the first one of the stripper vessels is thus approximately (disregarding time required to establish a new connection) twice the time required for collecting a new batch. Assuming that the dwell time required for sufficiently stripping a batch load is not affected by the invention, the batch size can thus be approximately half of what would be the case when only one stripper vessel is available for use.

Consequently, the accumulating capacity can be reduced, or the provided collecting means can be reduced in size. --

Paragraph on line 23 of page 14 has been amended as follows:

-- In an alternative embodiment, the provision of two parallel stripper vessels allows in principle for omitting a collecting vessel located in series with the stripper assembly. In that case, one of the stripper vessels 30A or 30B assumes the function of collecting a new batch load of contaminated powder while a previous batch load is being stripped in another of the stripper vessels. Since the stripper assembly comprises two or more stripper vessels, which are selectively connectable to the source of contaminated powder, it is now possible to strip a first batch load in a first one of the stripper vessels

while more contaminated powder, for a second batch load, passes through the connecting means to another stripper vessel. Thus, an intermediate accumulating capacity for collecting the second batch load is not needed, or can at least be reduced. It should be noted that a small accumulating capacity may still be needed to allow for a short period of time that may be necessary to disconnect the source from a previously connected stripper vessel and connect the source to a newly selected stripper vessel. Small adaptations may have to be made to the stripper vessels 30A and 30B if they are also to be used for sluicing the batch loads from one pressure state to another pressure state.--

On page 17, above line 1, insert:--We claim:--